

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THESSA 00192 081401Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PGOV, GR
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS

1. THE IMPORTANCE GREEK OFFICIALDOM ATTACHES TO ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS, THE GREEK-ORTHODOX ARCHBISHOP OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND THE GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY WAS CONVINCINGLY DEMONSTRATED BY HIS FIVE DAY VISIT TO NORTHERN GREECE. PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS A PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF SAINT PAUL JND THE ARCHBISHOP WAS ACCOMPANIED BY TWO HUNDRED EMINENT GREEK-AMERICANS AND THE SIXTY MEMBER GREEK METROPOLITAN CHORALE FROM NEW YORK.

2. MINISTER OF NORTHERN GREECE MARTIS ACTED VIRTUALLY AS AN ESCORT OFFICER FOR ARCHBISHOP DURING ENTIRE VISIT WHICH INCLUDED TRIPS TO KAVALA, CARAMANLIS' BIRTHPLACE, PROTI, AND VERIA. AT EACH STOP, THE ARCHBISHOP AND HIS GROUP WERE GREETED BY MOST IMPORTANT LOCAL OFFICIALS. LUNCHEON WHICH HE HOSTED IN THESSALONIKI, JULY 2, APPEARED TO BE "COMMAND PERFORMANCE" WITH EVERY SIGNIFICANT THESSALONIKI OFFICIAL PRESENT.

3. IN HIS WELL-COVERED PUBLIC COMMENTS, ARCHBISHOP SHIFTED BETWEEN RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL THEMES. IN THE LATTER, HOWEVER, HE GENERALLY AVOIDED CONTROVERSIAL TOPICS AND
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STRESSED TRADITIONAL CLOSE GREEK-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP AND SHARED DEMOCRATIC IDEALS. HE DID SAY IN A PRESS CONFERENCE THAT IN A RECENT MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER, THE PRESIDENT HAD ASSURED HIM THAT HE HAD NOT ABANDONED HIS STAND ON CYPRUS AS SPELLED OUT IN HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. ARCHBISHOP ALSO SAID THAT THE REACTION OF GREEK-AMERICANS WOULD BE EVEN GREATER THAN IN 1974 IF TURKEY WERE TO CREATE PROBLEMS IN

THE AGEAN.

4. THE ARCHBISHOP AND HIS COUNCIL ATTENDED MY FOURTH OF JULY
RECEPTION AND I WAS INVITED AND ATTENDED THE JULY 2 LUNCHEON,
AN OUTSTANDING EVENING PRESENTATION BY THE CHORALE, AND
A DOXOLOGY ON JULY 4 WHICH THE ARCHBISHOP CONDUCTED
AT SAINT SOPHIA CHURCH.
COONY

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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